THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, May 5, 1806.

Account of the Assassination of Henry the Third, of France.

[From a Manuscript in the Possession of the Right Hon. W. Conyngham.]

JAMES CLEMENT, a dominican or jacobin friar, came from Paris to the king's camp. Having a kind of passport through the army, signed by the count de Brinne, then a prisoner in the city, and a letter that appeared to be written to the king from the president, Harlai, he was allowed, after being stopped at one of the out-posts, to hold his course to St. Cloud. The king's procurator general, Le Guesle, took the charge of him, and finding it inconvenient to present him to the king that night, he lodged him in his own apartment. This opportunity of examining him more narrowly, and bringing his pretended message to the king under suspicion, was either not properly used, or did not avail to detect him. Clement's habit, his composure, his look, and speech, neither expressive of wit nor guilt, seemed to excuse any jealous inquiry about his commission and errand. He supped at Le Guesle's, produced a long knife at table, and when gone to his repose was soon observed by the servants to be laid in a profound sleep. Next morning, as Henry himself had appointed, La Guesle conducted Clement to the king's lodging; after waiting a little, Henry came undressed, and without his buff-doublet, from his bed-chamber into his closet. He was introduced. Having received the letters from La Guesle's hand, and, beginning to peruse them attentively, the king desired Clement to draw near his chair. The friar observing Henry's eye fixed on the papers, instantly drew forth his knife, and plunged the whole blade into the left side of

his belly. Starting up with pain, and crying out " the wretch has killed me!" the king pulled out the knife that stuck in his body, and dashed it against the assassin's forehead. La Guesle, almost demented with what he said, drew his sword, and run the detestible parricide through the body, and in a few moments, from the vehement rage of the officers who entered at the noise, many other stabs being given to it, the carcase was tossed from the window into the court-yard, where it was put on a hurdle, and torn asunder by horses.

The conjectures about the instigation of Clement to this execrable action were various. Some believed it to be altogether the effect of a frantic enthusiasm, into which he had been gradually wrought, by the outrageous harangues of the preachers against Henry. Others affirmed, that one of his age, which was only twenty-two, could not have been impelled to the sacrifice of his life, by undertaking such a deed, without his imagination being practised upon by the artifices of his fraternity in the cloister, and the concurrence of some of the Parisian council of devotees, to mature the contrivance, and direct the execution of the horrid design. But, whilst this sudden slaughter prevented scrutiny that might have been made, and his too easy admission upon letters, either forged or fraudulently obtained, appeared strange and inexplicable; the king's dangerous situation drew the dismal attention of all his officers and attendants. A wide and deep wound, through which part of the guts appeared, and the distressful pain he felt, struck all around him with terror of the consequences. A formal report, but not a direct judgment of his case, being delivered to his physicians and his surgeons, it was agreed that the apprehensions entertained of his danger should be concealed; and lest the rumours of it flying abroad might be improved, to the prejudice of the royal interest, dispatches were transmitted to the provincial governors, certifying the hopes of his speedy recovery.

Having passed the day without unfavourable symptoms; and being visited by the king of Navarre, whose unaffected condolence expressed the cordial emotions felt by him, he was left to the repose of night, where quickly the most alarming alteration ensued. His chief nobility and officers being now called in, and told by him, that the hour of his death was near, he exerted all the voice and spirit he had, in conjuring them, to union among themselves, and to the support of the declining monarchy. He declared Henry, king of Navarre, to be the only true and legitimate heir of the crown, and he required them at his death, as they respected the royal dignity, to swear fealty and allegiance to him, as the lawful successor to it. They are said to have bended their knees, in testimony of their assent and compliance with his last request. He then called for the administration

ministration of the sacred *viaticum*; and requested absolution to be given him by his confessor; which, upon a declaration of his faith, and submission to the pope, he obtained; his last breath followed, when the king of Navarre, early in the morning, presented himself again in the apartment where he lay.

DESTRUCTION *of* BIRDS' NESTS.

To the Editor.

Sir,

I Have somewhere met with a remark, that the man who shows how to make two blades of grass spring up where only one grew before, renders more essential service to society than the ablest politician that ever graced a cabinet. This, however, is only true in a limited sense; for in vain would human skill and industry bring out of the lap of earth her richest gifts, if the wisdom and virtue of government were not exerted in securing to every individual the fair fruits of his ingenuity and labour.

But my present remarks are not directed to the increase, but the preservation of the fruits of the earth, and by means which will have the happy effect at the same time of nipping in the bud some of the vicious propensities of youth.

Those who have not reflected much on the subject, would hardly conceive the extent of the mischiefs arising from the destruction of birds' nests. Our gardens and our corn-fields are thereby left a prey to caterpillars and myriads of insects, which would otherwise be devoured by the little birds that fall victims to boyish cruelty.

It is curious to observe how many species of those little birds there are with soft bills, so that they must live wholly on caterpillars and other insects, in consequence of their being unable to pick up grain, or any hard substance. Even sparrows, and all the hard billed birds, prefer insects, if they can get them, to any other sort of food, and carry them as luxuries to their young. I have often observed with astonishment the instinctive care of the parent bird, and the almost incredible quickness with which it picked up insects of various kinds, to be carried one after another to its nest.

Can it then be a matter of surprise that we hear such frequent complaints of our fruits, our vegetables, our corn, being materially injured by insects and caterpillars? when we not only permit, but encourage our children to destroy the best guardians of vegetation—the little birds that would devour all those noxious insects!

Much as I admire the labours of the agricultural societies, and the merit of the individuals that compose it, I am con-

vinced, from my own experience and observation, that an effectual corrective of the above wanton and wicked practice would prove of greater benefit in gardening and husbandry, than the most valuable improvement in either, that has been of late years suggested.

Let us now consider what effect the *amusement of birds'-nesting*, as it is called, has upon the mind and feelings of the boy. An habitual indifference to the destruction and tortures of the feathered race renders him by degrees callous to the sufferings of his fellow-creatures. The boy that cruelly robs a nest, and seizes upon the eggs or the unfledged young, while the parent bird is fluttering round in disregarded anguish, may grow up to commit other robberies and other murders with as little compunction.

I have been in a situation which afforded me frequent opportunities of marking the very natural progress of some such lads from birds'-nesting to transportation or the gallows. I do not stop to mention how much game they destroy by discovering the nests of partridges and pheasants; I merely trace them in their course, getting into gentlemen's pleasure grounds and parks, marking the places where game is to be found, communicating the information to poachers, and thus by degrees growing up to be poachers themselves, 'till they are transported for deer-stealing, or hanged for some other violation of the laws of their country.

Whether then we consider the great injury which agriculture sustains by the destruction of those little birds, the extension of the mischief to the most valuable sorts of game, or the influence of such a habit on the minds of youth, we cannot easily conceive a more pernicious practice, or one that calls more loudly for judicious and salutary correction.

I hope these hints will make some impression on the thinking part of society; and that parents will no longer be weak enough to indulge their children in sports, however seemingly trifling, that are of so pernicious a tendency.

Your's, &c.

AGRICOLA.

Life of Captain Sir Frederick Thesiger, Aid-du-Camp to the late Vice-Admiral Lord Viscount Nelson, on the Attack of the Line of Defence before Copenhagen, by which the Northern Confederacy, to check the naval Superiority of Great Britain, was completely broken.

CAPTAIN Sir Frederick Thesiger, late agent for prisoners of war at Portsmouth, was an officer who was fortunate enough

enough to experience frequent opportunities of signalizing himself, as well in the service of his own country as in that of the great Catherine, empress of all the Russias. He was present at eighteen different engagements, in all of which he distinguished himself by his cool intrepidity, added to great nautical skill; and was fortunate enough to escape through the whole of them without sustaining any other injury than a few scratches and bruises, occasioned by the stroke of splinters.

His first entrance into a maritime life, was in the service of the honourable East India company; but after making two or three voyages, finding his genius ill adapted to commerce, and encouraged by the hope of displaying his genius and gallantry, England being then at war with France, in consequence of the assistance afforded by her to the American states, he preferred the more active employment of an officer in the royal navy, and accordingly entered into the service of his country under that gallant officer Sir Samuel Marshall. Under that gentleman he served during a period of some years, and was always distinguished as one of his most active midshipmen, insomuch that he was most particularly noticed when on board; and when on shore always found a warm reception at his house—a friendship and attachment which ceased not but with the life of his protector and patron. When Sir George, afterwards Lord Rodney, took upon himself, for the last time, the command of the fleet in the West Indies, Mr. Thesiger was appointed acting lieutenant on board the Formidable, and on the memorable 12th of April was recommended by Sir Charles Douglas to that admiral, as being a most correct repeater of signals. He was in consequence appointed his aid-du-camp, and after being stationed near his person during the whole of the action, was one of the first officers sent to take possession of the Ville de Paris, when she had struck to the British flag. Fortunately for him, a brother officer, preferred returning to England to continuing on the West India station; he therefore solicited and obtained permission to exchange with him, in consequence of which he was rescued from the melancholy fate that befel so many brave persons who perished on board the Ville de Paris, herself and the other prizes, on the melancholy event of their foundering, when on their passage to Europe, from the West Indies. Mr. Thesiger went with his friend Sir Charles Douglas to America, on which station he was invested with the chief command, and after remaining some time there, returned to England.

Great Britain, however, being at peace with all the world at that period, another field of honour and glory opened to his view, and presented a fair prospect of obtaining renown. The war between the Russians and Swedes was then at its height, and each power was anxious to obtain naval celebrity.

They

They encouraged therefore to their respective standards, officers who had distinguished themselves in the British navy, and held out, through their ambassadors, inducements for them to join the adverse fleet. This exchange of temporary service being permitted by the British admiralty, our gallant countryman Sir Sidney Smith entered into the service of Sweden, when, at the same period, the subject of this short memoir entered into that of Russia; and in the opponent fleets each of them had opportunities of displaying their native valour and skill. Mr. Thesiger was most strongly recommended, by his firm friend Lord Rodney, to the Russian ambassador; who from the manner in which he was mentioned in the annexed copy of the letter which the noble admiral wrote to him, promised him the command of a 74 gun-ship immediately on his arrival in Russia, and directly paid him, in advance, a liberal allowance for his travelling expences, requesting at the same time, that he would take the most expeditious method of passing to Cronstadt, where a fleet was preparing for sea, in order to attack the Swedes.

"*London, 30th April*, 1789.

"Your excellency will pardon me for troubling you; but as it is at the request of a very gallant officer, Captain Thesiger, who has remarkably done his duty to his king and country, and was one of my aids-du-camps on the memorable day of the 12th April, 1782, and is now anxious to offer his services to her imperial majesty of all the Russias. I beg leave to recommend him to your excellency's protection, and to assure you that I look upon him in the light of an excellent and gallant officer; and I am convinced that he will do honour to any command that may be conferred upon him. I beg leave to assure your excellency, that I have the honour to be, with the highest respect, your excellency's most obedient and most humble servant,

(Signed) "RODNEY."

He was fortunate enough to arrive at Cronstadt when the fleet was upon the point of sailing, and having joined the ship that he had been appointed to, and was ready for him, proceeded to sea in search of the Swedish squadron. During the cruize the Russians were fortunate enough to come up with their enemy, and a desperate engagement ensued, in which the fleet of Catherine proved triumphant; for the Swedish admiral on board the Gustavus struck his colours to Captain Thesiger. The command of the prize was afterwards conferred upon him, and when the fleet returned into port to refit, the empress of Russia complimented those officers who had most distinguished themselves, by bestowing on them titles, orders, &c.

On Captain Thesiger she conferred the order of merit, the ensign of which is a gold sword with Russian characters engraved upon it, descriptive of gallantry. In the following year the hostile fleets again met, and when the Russians bore down to attack the Swedes, the latter made sail, after a short resistance, for the purpose of taking shelter between the island of Bourholm and the main land, the entrance to which channel was defended by shoals and formidable batteries. As the Russians could not follow them, the outlet was ordered to be defended by six ships of the line, five of which were commanded by Englishmen.

After being blockaded for some days in that situation, and fearing the want of provisions, or that the Russians might send in fire-ships, and endeavour to destroy them, they determined to make a bold push and attempt to force a passage through the opposing squadron; watching therefore a favourable opportunity when the remainder of the Russians were far to leeward, they got under weigh, and in endeavouring to pass the blockading squadron a dreadful conflict ensued. In the course of it some of the Swedes were captured, and many driven upon the rocks, where they were wrecked, while the remainder escaped to one of their nearest ports, but in so shattered a condition that a peace was the result of this splendid victory. The Russians suffered very considerably, as may be supposed, and after the action, one of their ships of the line sunk. The carnage was dreadful on both sides, and out of the five English captains that commanded in the action, Captain Thesiger was the only one that survived. On account of his services, valour, and skill, displayed on that memorable day, the great Catherine conferred upon him the order of St. George, accompanied by a letter in her own hand writing, of which the following is a copy.

To the Captain of our Fleet (Thesiger.)

"Your zealous service, ability, and valour, displayed during the action of the 22d of June, against the fleet of the line and the galleys of Sweden, where you bravely opposed the enemy, advancing in superior force, and animating and encouraging your subordinates by your own meritorious example, contributed to the brilliancy of the victory obtained over the enemy, which renders you worthy of bearing our military order of St. George the martyr and conqueror, according to its statutes. We therefore most graciously bestow upon you the order of the fourth class, and sending herewith its ensigns, authorise you to put them on, and to wear them in the lawful manner. We are besides persuaded, that you having received this encouragement,

ment, will still persevere in the continuance of your zeal to deserve our imperial favour.

(Signed) " CATHERINE.

" *Given under our hand at Sarsko Zello, on the 8th day of July, O. S. 1790, Peter Zavodoosky.*"

It is a curious coincidence, that our gallant countryman Sir Sidney Smith, who was then in the service of the king of Sweden, was at the same time rewarded by that monarch with one of his orders of knighthood, in glorious reward for his very skilful manœuvre in retreating with the galley fleet, by which he prevented his majesty being taken prisoner.

When the Russian fleet was sent to Great Britain, for the purpose of co-operating with the British fleet, under Admiral Lord Duncan, Sir Frederick Thesiger was one of the captains selected for that service, and remained in this country 'till the return of the fleet to Russia; but upon the death of the great Catherine, the service became irksome and disagreeable to him, owing to the capricious and puerile orders given, and the regulations introduced into the navy by Paul. He therefore, through the medium of his friends in England, commenced a negociation with the first lord of the admiralty, to return into the immediate service of his country, upon a promise of being promoted by degrees to a similar rank to that which he held under the Emperor Paul. He accordingly sent in his resignation to the Russian admiralty, and solicited for a passport to return to England; but Paul being anxious to retain him in his service, made every effort to induce his continuance in Russia, promising immediately to make him an admiral, together with other brilliant offers. But all these promises were of no avail, as he wished to have an opportunity of distinguishing himself in the service of his own country, and therefore remained firm in his determination to return to Great Britain—a resolution which so irritated the autocrat, that he detained him at St. Petersburgh, out of employment and pay, upwards of twelve months, before he permitted him to receive his passport. This he had no sooner obtained, than he joyfully quitted a service he loathed for one that his heart panted after. He left the Russian dominions without having received any of his prize-money, or the pecuniary rewards attached to his services, and came away with merely the orders, the only ostensible proofs that he had merited and obtained such marks of favour from the Empress Catherine.

He fortunately arrived in this country at a moment when he could be of service to it, for it was just at the time when the northern confederacy began to be formed; and Earl Spencer,

then at the head of the admiralty, frequently held conferences with him, for the purpose of gaining every information as to the strength of the Russian navy, the navigation of the Baltic, and other matters which his penetration had pointed out to his observation during his residence in the northern ports. Upon its being finally determined by this country to attack and to endeavour to break the chain of the northern league, formed for the attempt of subverting the naval superiority, marine preponderance, and commercial greatness of Britain, Lord Spencer, with that promptitude and discernment which ever marked his naval administration, fixed upon Sir Frederick Thesiger, as a proper person to act in a conspicuous situation on board the fleet which was preparing to effect this great national purpose. He, therefore, immediately sent for him from on board the Excellent, where he was acting merely as lieutenant, and after promoting him to the rank of commander, in the most flattering manner introduced him as such, to Admiral Sir Hyde Parker, and to Lord Nelson.

To the gallant and ever-to-be lamented lord, just mentioned, he acted as aid-de-camp, on the memorable attack on the line of defence before Copenhagen, and was the officer who volunteered, during the tremendous fire from the crown battery, to proceed with the flag of truce to the prince royal of Denmark, a measure which produced a cessation of firing, and led to a truce. In this act, the undaunted bravery and foresight of Captain Thesiger, shone most conspicuously; and entering fully into the feelings and plans of his noble chief and commander, and seeing how necessary it was to reach the shore with as little delay as possible, in preference to going a circuitous rout, that would have taken up the best part of an hour, and in pursuing which he would have been out of the line of the Danish fire, he dashed directly forward, and encouraged his men to persevere through the cloud of smoke and the heavy fire which prevailed, (the flag of truce not being seen or respected) and landed without injury to himself, or any of his boat's crew, safe at Copenhagen. The crown prince immediately acquiescing to the terms proposed, sent off directly with Sir Frederick Thesiger, a flag in return, and instantly dispatched orders for the firing to cease in every direction. As many of the batteries, however, were at a considerable distance from the capital, Captain Thesiger had got half way back to the British fleet, ere the orders could be thoroughly attended to; and before he joined his ship, the two flag ships had grounded, circumstances which evince the merit he possessed in braving all danger to reach the shore in the quickest possible manner: for had he proceeded by the circuitous and safe way, the situation of the British ships might have been perceived, ere he had landed with the flag of truce, and the conse-

quences might have been incalculable. Sir Frederick Thesiger therefore deserves his meed of praise and gratitude from his country, for having so fully performed his duty on that never-to-be forgotten day, and for so nobly seconding the views of the hero that achieved the great victory. And may not one leaf, from the laurelled wreath that adorned the brows of the great chief, be spared to mix with the cypress o'er the tomb of his valiant aid-de-camp!!!

As soon as circumstances permitted, after the truce took place, the British fleet proceeded up the Baltic; but before it reached Revel, the death of the Emperor Paul caused a negociation to be entered into, which was followed by a pacification. When the English fleet approached Revel, and there were not pilots sufficient to carry the ships in with safety, owing to the flags or marks pointing out the channel being all removed, Captain Thesiger was requested, from his intimacy with the navigation, to take charge of Admiral Graves's ship, which request he complied with, and led the division 'till the squadron anchored in safety. Immediately afterwards, in consequence of his understanding the language of the country, the hero of the Nile, of Copenhagen, and of Trafalgar sent him on shore to negociate for the supply of fresh provisions for the daily consumption of the British fleet.

When that negociation was nearly concluded, which produced a restoration of peace with the northern powers, Lord Nelson returned to England, and a short time afterwards, Captain Thesiger being sent home with Admiral Sir Charles Pole's dispatches, was most flatteringly received by Earl St. Vincent and the admiralty board. He was, in a short time afterwards, promoted to the rank of post captain in the British navy, a rank to which he had always fondly aspired. And having now reached a rank similar to that which he held in the Russian navy, he obtained his majesty's gracious permission to assume the title, and wear the order of St. George, which the empress of all the Russias had conferred upon him, for his meritorious conduct while in her service.

On the commencement of the present war, he was, through the interest of his particular friend, Sir Thomas Trowbridge, then one of the lords of the admiralty, appointed British agent for prisoners of war at Portsmouth, which office he filled with all that urbanity and philanthropy which ever marked his conduct, and rendered the chains of captivity as little galling as the nature of the circumstances would possibly admit. To some of Madame Bonaparte's very near relations, who were captured on their way from Martinique to the court of their antile relative, he had the opportunity of shewing great civility and kindness; and they appeared so grateful for his attentions, as well as friendly solicitude for their comfort, that upon being

permitted

permitted to proceed to France, they waited upon him (though confined to his bed by illness) to take their leave, and to know what it was possible for them to do, to evince their gratitude for his great attentions, in ameliorating the shackles of detention. He merely requested they would deliver a letter to his friend, the Rev. Mr. Bentinck, a traveller, detained by Bonaparte in France, and intercede with him, that he might be permitted to return to his native country; but with true French forgetfulness of favours received, the letter was never delivered, and his poor friend died in confinement, contrary to the usages of all civilized nations.

Sir Frederick Thesiger filled the office of agent for prisoners of war at Portsmouth, 'till the time of his death, which happened on the 26th of August, 1805, on which occasion his country lost a truly brave and meritorious officer. His friends and family sustained an irreparable loss, and the poor in his neighbourhood (to whom he was always a kind and benevolent patron) an indulgent contributor to their wants and comforts.

Biographical Particulars of the Elector of Wurtzburg.

FERDINAND, archduke of Austria, was born at Florence, May the 6th, 1799. He is the second son of the Emperor Leopold II. by Maria Louisa, infanta of Spain. Educated at the ducal court at Florence, he removed in the year 1790, on the death of the Emperor Joseph II. to Vienna. In his 22d year, he married Maria Louisa Amelia, a daughter of the king of Naples. Instructed in the difficult science of governing, by his royal father, the wise legislator of Tuscany, he assumed the reins of the grand duchy, in 1790. The people committed to his care were happy. Florence, the magnificent metropolis, was the nurse of the fine arts; the commerce of Leghorn flourished; his flag waved in all the ports of the Mediterranean, and the age of the Medicis was restored, under the peaceful sceptre of the princes of the house of Habsburg. Such was the enviable state of Tuscany, when all Europe was convulsed by the French revolution. Without immediately taking part in the war, Ferdinand was the first prince who concluded a treaty of peace and friendship with France.

This tranquillity was not of long duration. On the renewal of the war, the grand duke was driven out of his dominions, and lived, for some months, in total seclusion, at Graz, the capital of Styria. In 1801, Ferdinand, returned to Vienna; there, on the 18th of September, 1802, death destroyed that union, which, for twelve years, had been the happiness of his life. The fruits of his marriage are a son, Leopold Ferdinand

Charles, born in 1797, and two daughters, Maria Louisa Rose, and Theresa Joanna Benedicta. The peace of Luneville summoned the grand duke to the possession of the electorate of Salzburg, and the principalities of Berchtesgaden, Passau, and Eichstadt. These countries were, however, destined to enjoy, but for a short time, the happiness of his government. Providence decreed, that Wurtzburg should call him her own. With acclamations of joy both the city and the country received the intelligence, that Ferdinand was to be their ruler and elector.

We cannot, indeed, compensate him for the loss of his paternal inheritance. Wurtzburg is not to be compared to the superb Florence, or the opulent Leghorn; and the wintry tempest howls through our country, when the roses blossom on the banks of the Arno. Our hills, however, produce generous wine, and the Franconian is surpassed by none in attachment to his prince. May providence long preserve to us our beloved sovereign, and long may his house reign in peace over us and our posterity!—*(Wurtzburg Gazette.)*

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

The RAVAGES *of the* SMALL-POX.

To Dr. CREASER, *Bath,*

DEAR SIR,

THE small-pox is raging with unexampled mortality, by inoculation, in the neighbourhood of Stogursey, and amongst the few who have been prevailed on to submit to this dreadful disease, I am informed eight or nine have fallen victims. You will startle to hear of professional gentlemen dipping their lancets in this cruel poison, and communicating a disease almost uncontrollable to their fellow-creatures; you will be still more astonished to find the minds of a few respectable inhabitants warped by prejudice against the cow-pox, as preventative of the scourge of the human race; but your wonder will cease when you learn, that a story is in circulation, and believed by a great number, of a lady who has been corresponding with the immortal Jenner, whose opinion she delivers as repugnant to the reputation of the cow-pox, and this as freely as may be, that Dr. Jenner has no great opinion of the disease himself. Is this possible? are these the sentiments of that great man? If so he must be strangely altered since last summer, when I had the pleasure of meeting you at his hospitable mansion. However, it has had a considerable influence on the minds of the ignorant and unwary, and the example of this lady,

lady, who has had her own children inoculated for the small-pox, is an additional motive to induce others to be weak enough to follow it. I have inoculated 2017 for the cow-pox, without a single instance of failure, or any alarming occurrence; and there can be no doubt where professional gentlemen will be attentive, and procure proper vaccine virus, of its proving the greatest blessing ever bestowed by Heaven on man; but I believe there are some inveterate enemies to this disease through ignorance, and others through obstinacy, who will suffer no evidence, however strong, to impress their minds with conviction, and who will be guided by no experience, however extensive. I shall trust you will bring our friend acquainted with this report of him, as I am not certain of his address at this time, and will thank you for an answer as soon as you receive this.

I have the honour to be, dear Sir,
Your's sincerely,
HENRY SULLY.

Wiveliscombe Dispensary, April 7, 1806.

To Henry Sully, Esq.

Surgeon to his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, Wiveliscombe,

Dear Sir,

IN consequence of your information, that a report had been actively circulated, in the vicinity of Stogursey, purporting that Dr. Jenner had abandoned his own opinions on vaccination, I addressed a letter to him on the subject. I am authorised by Dr. Jenner to declare, that this story is totally unfounded; that he never, either in conversation or correspondence, gave the smallest indication of a change on the subject; but that, on the contrary, every day produces new evidence of the security and advantages of vaccination, both here and in foreign countries. Had I not received ample experience, for many years, of the industrious malignity of the opponents of vaccination, I should wonder at the existence of so barefaced a fabrication as that in question. A very small portion of the active efforts which are made by the enemies of mankind to perpetuate one of its greatest scourges, small-pox, would, if otherwise directed, be sufficient for its extinction. How ignonoble, and how criminal an endeavour is this, and how completely the means are consistent in point of atrocity with the ends! I have the pleasure of communicating to you the thanks of the royal Somerset jennerian society, for your successful endeavours in the prosecution of their purposes, and I am also commissioned

commissioned by our friend, Dr. Jenner, to present you his acknowledgements for the same.

I am, dear Sir,
Your's, &c.
THOMAS CREASER.

Bath, April 13, 1806.

Account of the taking of Canterbury by the Danes in the Year 1011, *and the Death of Archbishop Elpheg.*

[Translated from Suhm's History of Denmark.]

ON the 8th of September (A. D. 1011) an army of Danes, under the command of Thorkil,* came before Canterbury, besieged it twenty days, set fire to it by machines of war that discharged red hot arrows, raised hills of earth, built towers, employed battering rams, (the whole of which was mostly performed by Englishmen,) and also distressed it through want of provisions, which made Archbishop Elpheg send overtures for peace. But at length they took it through the treachery of the Archdeacon Ehnar, who had shortly before been granted his life by Elpheg. They forced open the gates, and entered the city with the sound of trumpets, for there were no defenders on the walls, all having hurried home to extinguish the fire. Great numbers were killed on this occasion, and the streets were covered with dead bodies. The greater part of the city was also burned. Many were precipitated from the walls. Women were seen dragged by the hair through the streets, and at last thrown into the flames; infants were torn from the arms of their mothers, thrown up in the air, and caught on the points of the spears, or they were trampled and crushed to death in the streets. Our ancestors were then, as they too often were, most detestable barbarians.

The Archbishop Elpheg, together with Alfword, the king's earl, Abbot Leofvin, Bishop Godvin of Rochester, and Leofrum, abbess of the convent of St. Mildred, were then taken prisoners, but Ehnar was suffered to go unmolested. The archbishop

* This Thorkil, surnamed *the tall*, was a man of great eminence among the Danes. After the return of Sweyn to Denmark, in the year 1017, he, with the permission of that king, went over to England with forty ships, for the purpose of revenging the death of a brother. Shortly after the death of Elpheg, he made friendship with Ethelred II. and assisted him against his compatriots. But in the sequel he sided with Canute, was very instrumental to his success, and was by him made earl of East Anglia. At length he fell into disgrace with Canute, was banished the kingdom, and murdered by the populace in Denmark.

bishop addressed the Danes with severity, therefore he was kicked and cuffed, and compelled to stand at the entrance of the church, and look at their proceedings. All clerical persons, both men and women, besides a great number of the inhabitants, were also taken prisoners, and the Danes remained at pleasure in the city. At length, having stripped it entirely, they carried away the archbishop, tied and secured, on a boat to their ships, which were lying at Greenwich, where they kept him in prison seven months, setting a guard of twelve warriors to watch him. Thither they also brought the captive women, children, and men. Christ Church, the principal church of the city, was plundered and burnt, and every tenth person only, by the casting of lots, was spared, so that out of ten nine were killed, without distinction of sex or age. The number of the killed amounted very near to 8000; that of the saved was only 4 monks, and 800 other persons.

In the month of April ensuing the archbishop lost his life in the following manner. They pressed him very much that he should purchase his liberty, and demanded for his ransom 3000 or 4000 pounds; but he constantly not only refused to pay the sum, but even gave orders that nothing should be given for his deliverance, alledging that the peasants of the church would be ruined by it. They particularly pressed him hard on a Saturday the 12th of April, requiring ransom, or threatening to kill him; but he persisted in answering, that his life was not of so much worth, that the people ought to be ruined for his sake. He even repeated his former orders, that no ransom should be paid, and thus he rushed on his own destruction.

After this they brought him before their assembly, which was held at Greenwich, on the 19th of April, and cried out to him, "Bishop! give gold, or thou shalt to-day become a public spectable." They were then flushed with wine, which they had procured from the south. He was brought on horseback, and they proposed the same conditions to him, but in vain. Then, starting up from their seats, they attempted to kill him by striking him with the flat sides of their axes, and by flinging bones and horns of oxen at him; from which I conclude that they were sitting at table, as flinging bones was a custom I have mentioned under Krolf Krake, (king of Denmark, who died A. D. 552.) But at last one Thrum, probably Trond, who had the day before been confirmed by the archbishop, ran up, moved by compassion, and gave him a blow on the head with his axe, which brought him dead to the ground. He was then near sixty years of age. Some of them were ashamed of this horrid deed, and probably the more so, as many of them were already Christians by name. A quarrel therefore arose among them, when some were for delivering up his body for honourable interment, others for throwing it into the Thames; they

even met in arms: a miracle is said towards evening to have gained over the heathen party; but it is more probable, as Bromton, and even Osbern, adds, that the citizens of London bought his body with a great sum of money. It was accordingly the next morning brought to London, and with great solemnity interred in the church of St. Paul, whence it was removed to Canterbury eleven years after. On the place in Greenwich where he was killed, a church was consecrated to his honour, which, according to the account of Wolkmann, has been rebuilt in later times, and is still called by his name.

Elpheg, while bishop of Winchester, had been one of the principal instruments in mediating a separate peace (A. D. 995.) between Ethelred II. and Olave, afterwards king of Norway, (he was surnamed Trygveson, and was a different person from St. Olave, who mounted the throne of Norway sixteen years after the death of the former;) the consequence of which was, that Sweyn, deserted by Olave, who had hitherto been his ally in the war, was compelled for the present to give up his enterprise on England, and return home. As archbishop of Canterbury, he had exerted himself with great activity, both to make resistance to the Danes, and to make converts of them. To these causes, are partly attributed the cruelty with which he was treated.

An ANECDOTE.

THE abbot of Battle, in Sussex, was known by no other name, and left a most excellent memory behind him. He lived in the fourteenth century, in the time of Edward III. and Richard II. At this period the French landed in Sussex without opposition, wasted and plundered the country, and carried away captive the prior of Lewes, which animated the abbot of Battle, though no sheriff, to raise the *posse comitatus*, with whom he marched to Winchelsea, and fortified it: there he was soon afterwards beset by the French forces, who plied him with their great guns, being the first that were ever planted by a foreign enemy in this island; but the country obliged them to retire speedily

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The PORCUPINE.

THESE animals are found in plenty in the woods of Ceylon; and the Dutch settlers frequently hunt them with dogs. Their sharp quills, however, often fasten into the bodies of dogs that rush too eagerly upon them, so that it is by no means uncommon for them to lose their lives in the pursuit.

REFLECTION.

HAPPY is the man who can look back on his past life, with the pleasing consciousness, that its general course has been virtuous, and its prevailing bias religious.

PENNANT's CHARACTER *of the* HIGHLANDERS.

STRICT fidelity is a distinguishing character of the Highlanders. Two instances, taken from distant periods, will be sufficient proofs of the high degree in which they possess this shining virtue. In the reign of James V. when the Clan-Chattan had raised a dangerous insurrection, attended with all the barbarities usual in those days, the earl of Murray raised his people, suppressed the insurgents, and ordered 200 of the principal prisoners to execution. As they were led, one by one, to the gallows, the earl offered them a pardon in case they would discover the lurking-place of their chieftain; but they unanimously told him, that, were they acquainted with it, no sort of punishment should ever induce them to be guilty of breach of trust to their leader.

The other example is taken from more recent and mercenary days. In the year 1746, when the young pretender preferred the preservation of an unhappy life, by an inglorious flight, to the honour of falling heroicly with his faithful followers in the field of Culloden, he, for five months, led the life of a fugitive, amidst a numerous and various set of mountaineers. He trusted his person often to the lowest and most dissolute of the people; to men pinched with poverty, or accustomed to rapine; yet neither the fear of punishment, for assisting the wretched wanderer, nor the dazzling allurement of the reward of 30,000l. could ever prevail on any one to violate the laws of hospitality, or be guilty of a breach of trust. They extricated him out of every difficulty; they completed his deliverance, preserving his life for mortifications more afflicting than the dreadful hardships he sustained during his long flight.

SPECIMEN *of* ORTHOGRAPHY.

THIS Is to gave Notes that manes fars past Boys have made a pratis of turning ower the Stangins & taken away their property & Breking the Bords and tririsls & Leting of pouder Whoiver Will make Infarmation of the afrdor or afenders So thei might Be Braft to justis by aplien to the markit man Shole Reseve 5 Shillings Reward

Answer, by H. Glasson, of Praze, to the Young Lady's Charade, inserted Feb. 17.

THE maritime town which you try'd to display
Is PLYMOUTH, in Devon, I'll venture to say.

☞ We have received the like answer from J. Dunstan, of Crowan; Adrianus; M. Duncan, jun. of Plymouth; J. Scadding, of Wellington; H. Lewarn, of Grampound; and T. Bullock, of St. Columb.

Answer, by J. Woodman, Junior, of North Curry, to J. Channon's Charade, inserted February 17.

CARMINE's a colour of a beauteous hue,
Which your charade doth answer very true.

*** We have received similar answers from H. Glasson, of Praze; Rusticus, near Hembury Fort; William Varcoe, of Mevagissey; J. Lewis, of Poole; G. Coulman, of Broadhempston; M. Duncan, junior, of Plymouth; H. Stoneman, of Exeter; S. C. Moore, of Horswell House; J. Whittle, of Upway; W. Bickham, junior, of Ashburton; J. Waldron, of Lyme Regis; W. Lawrence, of St. Agnes; Corporal Ninnis, of the St. Agnes volunteers; W. D. of Bristol; M. M. of Dartmouth; J. Dunstan, of Crowan; J. W. and Adrianus.

Answer, by J. James, of Hinton St. George, to T. Rutger's Charade, inserted February 24.

THE parts combin'd will plainly shew,
FONTHILL's the place you had in view.

† Similar answers have been received from T. Bullock, of St. Columb; J. Whittle, of Upway; W. Sparks, of Crewkerne; W. D. and W. Cross, of Bristol; G. Coulman, of Broadhempston; Rusticus, near Hembury Fort; and Adrianus.

An ANAGRAM, *by W. Mann, of Ashburton.*

EXPLORE two wond'rous orbs of light,
And then the same transpose;
One who was fam'd for wisdom bright,
And justice, you'll disclose.

A CHARADE, *by R. Trewavas, of Mousehole.*

GO seek my first, far on the swelling tide,
The great South Sea, or the Pacific wide;
Inspect the bed of Damon's fondest lover,
'Tis there my second you will soon discover:
In stately ship, or bark, or boat, or sloop,
My whole is found, and that quite near the poop.

A CHARADE, *by R. Perring, of Kingsbridge.*

REFLECTION calls my first to mind,
It never can revive;
My next is fleeting as the wind,
And like the moment glides.
O may my whole, my various whole,
Full satisfaction give!
What pleasure then it will unfold,
I quit, and take my leave.

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

ELIZA's BIRTH-DAY.

HESPER, regent of the morn;
Ev'ry grace and charm adorn!
With a beam the most benign,
On Eliza sweetly shine!

Venus, from thy radiant eye,
Let thy tender lightning fly;
Oh! ye graces, in her train,
Still enjoy her happy reign!

Oh ye muses, sacred nine!
Round the maid your garlands twine:
Bright Apollo, god of day!
Oh inspire the votive lay!

May ev'ry joy that earth can yield
To the dear maid extend,
Immortal pow'rs! her virtue shield,
And be her constant friend.

Bid the unequal round of life
In one smooth tenour flow:
Above the reach of noisy strife,
And heart-distracting woe.

Then let her to her kindred skies
On seraph-wing ascend;
And revel in those holy joys,
That never have an end.

Sherborne. B. A.

STANZAS WRITTEN IN A SHRUBBERY.

YE nymphs who haunt this shady grove,
Tell me, have ye seen my love?
Ye tow'ring pines, ye verdant laurels say,
Has my Cleora pass'd this way?
'Tis silence all, how irksome to the breast
Is anxious expectation! Come, my muse,
The balm of peace diffuse,
And give thy votary's troubled bosom rest.

Strike in Cleora's praise the string,
Say she is fairer than the fairest flower
That graces yonder bower,
And bid the warbling lark attend to hear her sing.
Mark how affection brightens in her eye,
Her ear with every grace refin'd;
But chief the cultivated mind,
Which gives to outward charms stability.

The

The murmurs tell the pleasing tale,
While echo o'er the passing gale
Throws all around
The sweetly modulated sound;
And hark! how many rustic lays
Join the full chorus of her praise;
'Tis heart-felt gratitude inspires the song,
And wakes to harmony each artless tongue.

But see! the lovely girl appears,
And as the rising orb of day
Scatters each gathering mist away,
She dissipates my anxious fears.
How swift the moments dart along,
When I can Cleora meet,
And enjoy her converse sweet;
Farewell, my muse, adieu delusive song.

On the BLIND ASYLUM.

By W. SMITH, *Esq. Fellow of St. Peter's College, Cambridge.*

STRANGER pause—for thee the day
Smiling pours its cheerful ray,
Spreads the dawn, and rears the bower,
Lights the stream, and paints the flower.

Stranger pause—with soften'd mind,
Learn the sorrows of the blind;
Earth and seas, and varying skies,
Visit not their cheerless eyes.

Not for them the bliss to trace,
The chissel's animating grace,
Nor on the glowing canvas find
The poet's soul, the sage's mind.

Not for them the heart is seen,
Speaking thro' th' expressive mien;
Not for them are pictur'd there
Friendship, pity, love sincere.

Helpless as they slowly stray,
Childhood points their cheerless way;
Or the wand exploring guides
Faultering steps, where fear presides.

Yet for them has genius kind
Humble pleasures here assign'd;
Here with unexpected ray,
Reach'd the soul that felt no day.

Lonely blindness here can meet
Kindred woes, and converse sweet;
Torpid once, can learn to smile
Proudly o'er its useful toil.

He who deign'd for man to die,
Op'd on day the darken'd eye;
Humbly copy—thou canst feel;
Give thine alms—thou canst not heal.

On a FAT MAN.

WHEN Carteret walks the streets, the paviours cry,
"God bless you, Sir!" and lay their hammers by.